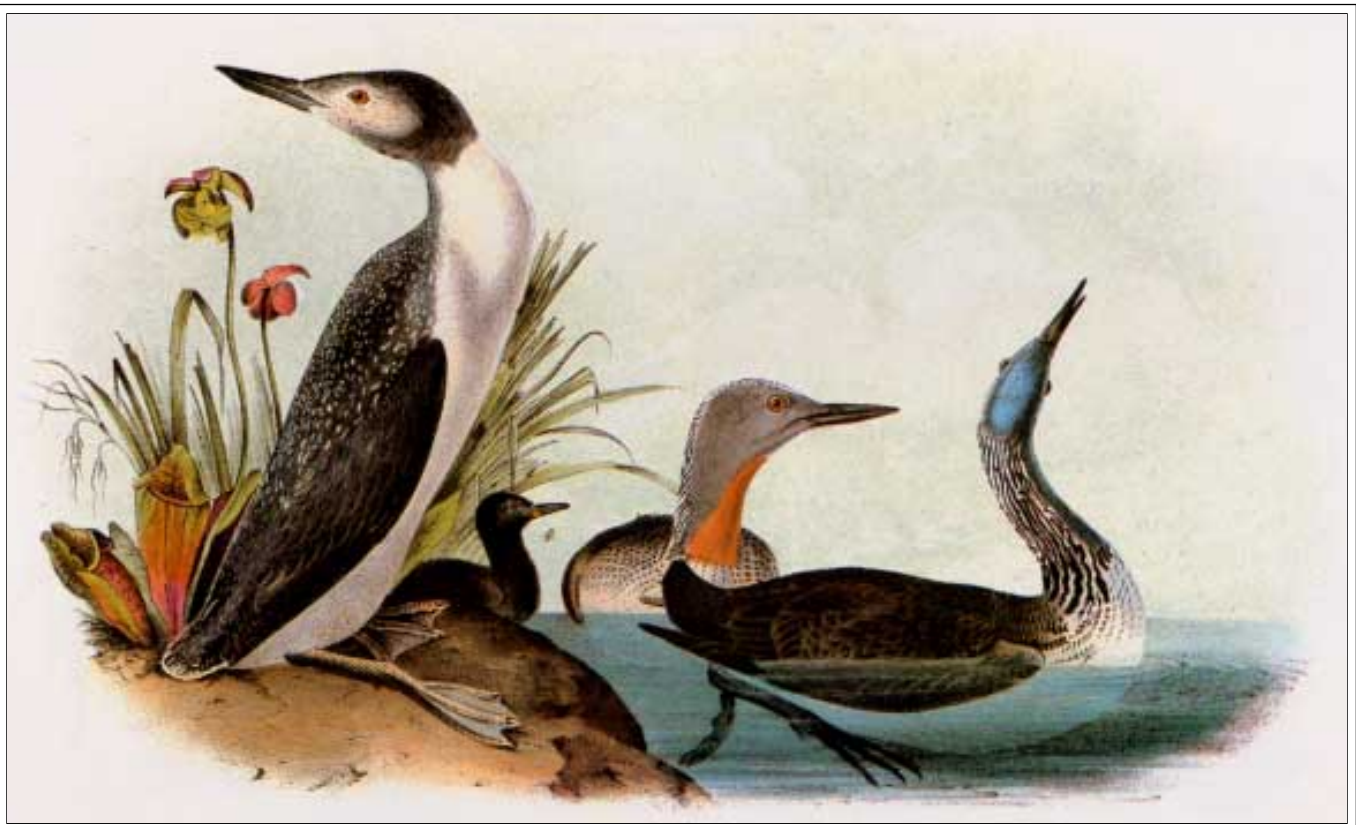


THE YELLOWHAMMER

VOLUME 25, NO. 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2005

...to foster a greater knowledge of birds and to promote conservation of all natural resources

FOUNDED 1952



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ROGER AND ME**

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On the Shoulders of Giants



ANY TIME WE PEER THROUGH a pair of binoculars or consult a field guide or visit a national park or wildlife refuge, or even when we choose to look at birds using optics instead of using a shotgun, we are the beneficiaries of many giants of ornithology, conservation, farsightedness, art and technology.

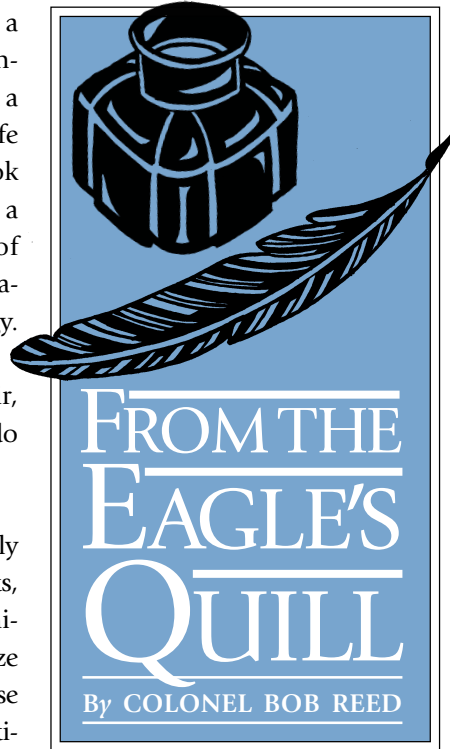
The names are usually familiar to us: John James Audubon, John Muir, Teddy Roosevelt, Ludlow Griscom, Aldo Leopold, David Sibley, Tom Imhof.

And Roger Tory Peterson.

The other names on my list are fairly easy to categorize. They are naturalists, conservationists, artists, authors, ornithologists. But how do you categorize Roger Tory Peterson? He was all of these things and more. Add mentor, competitor, lecturer, friend, philanthropist. And still, the man is illusive; he's not complete. How do you pin down a master?

Many of you knew, or at least met, Roger Tory Peterson. I started birding too late to meet him, a fact I regret deeply, but about which I can do nothing. But Pete Dunne was among the more fortunate; he got to know Dr. Peterson very well, and he will share some of those memories with us at our spring meeting. Pete Dunne, whom many consider to be the greatest nature writer of this generation, sharing personal stories about Roger Tory Peterson: you won't want to miss it.

But let's dwell on the giants idea a little more. We can bird much more proficiently, with more assurance, because of people who came before us and who left their mark, who left a legacy. We enjoyed learning of the magnificent work with Whooping Cranes in January. A couple of years ago we heard from Keith Hudson about the remarkable comeback of Bald Eagles in Alabama. Our own Bob and Martha Sargent are leaving the nation richer and more knowledgeable about hummingbirds in the southeast.



I have a question for you—and myself: what kind of legacy are we leaving behind? Are we doing all we can to promote conservation, particularly of bird habitats? Are we doing all we can to educate our friends to the need to conserve what habitat there is left? Are we communicating those concerns to our political representative? Are we not patronizing those areas that exist at the expense of habitat?

There is a more intimate question that we may need to ask ourselves: are we doing anything to promote an interest in birding and conservation in our children and grandchildren? What are we doing to pass on our love and concern for birds to the next generation? If we die without passing on this personal legacy, we may be sealing the fates of many bird species.

Another way we can leave a legacy is by becoming active in the Breeding Bird Atlas project, or in a Breeding Bird Survey route, or any number of other, less local citizen-science endeavors.

I encourage all of us to consider what heritage we are leaving, and do something about it. Each of us, and the world, will be richer for it.

Bob Reed Judges Waterfowl Stamp

AS PRESIDENT COLONEL BOB REED IS ONE OF THREE PERSONS named by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to Judge the 2005 Waterfowl Stamp Contest. The contest, held each year, determines what entrant will have his or her artwork on the Waterfowl Stamp for the year. The criteria for the judging are suitability for reproduction, originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and general rendering. The contest was held in Montgomery February 25, 2005.

—Mark Sasser

Peru—Part One



ON JANUARY 13, 2003 I said goodbye to my Samford classmates and headed off to explore the Andes alone. My 10 day tropical biology class in the Peruvian rainforest led by Dr. Larry Davenport and Dr. Ron Jenkins from Samford University had come to an end, and it was time for the class to go home. I, however, had decided the rainforest birds weren't enough and wanted to see some mountain species. I said goodbye to everyone at the airport in Lima and headed to the closest Best Western for some much needed rest

in a real hotel. My previous 10 days along the Amazon had required a bit of "roughing-it." I was almost too excited to sleep, having seen, during the last 10 days, really exciting birds in the rainforest including Black Hawk-eagle, Black-necked Red-cotinga, Pale-winged Trumpeter, and Hoatzin, as well as many manakins, tinamous, potoos, and the Amazonian Umbrellabird.

I decided to explore around Lima and the Pacific coast a little before booking a plane to Cusco up in the mountains, so the next day I took a cab out to a nearby marsh and was utterly amazed at the numbers of terrific birds in the middle of Lima, a city of 8 million people. I saw Great Grebes, Andean Coot, White-tufted Grebe, Many-colored Rush-tyrant, Peruvian Thick-knee, and Puna Ibis among others. After a lunch of sea bass and rice at a local restaurant, I enjoyed a walk around the Lima park where Bananaquits and Vermillion Flycatchers were a dime a dozen. I also found Saffron Finches, Pacific Parrotlets, and Oasis Hummingbirds. As it started to get late, I walked down to the coast to try and see some shorebirds. I wasn't disappointed. From my perch on a rock outcropping I got to see an Aplomado Falcon soar overhead while groups of shorebirds such as Peruvian Pelican, Inca Tern, Peruvian Booby, Guanay Cormorant, Gray and Gray-headed Gulls, and Peruvian Tern flew in for the night.



That night I sat up thinking about what I wanted to accomplish in the mountains in terms of birds. I came up with six birds I had heard about and decided I really wanted to see. I deemed them my "big six." They were Andean Flicker, Plumbeous Rail, Giant Hummingbird, Torrent Duck, Andean Condor, and Andean Cock-of-the-rock. From this point on, I would be on a mission to find these birds.

My flight from Lima at sea level up to Cusco at 11,152 feet was an hour long and gave me my first views of the beautiful snow-capped Andes. The abrupt altitude change also gave me a

headache, but my medicine and the cocoa tea that was provided helped. I had arranged earlier for a guide to meet me in Cusco, so I would have someone to give me much needed help in identifying the Andean birds and to take me to the best places for seeing them. His name was Marcos. He was a native Quechua Indian, descendant of the great Inca Empire. He was small, dark, and had a warm, outgoing personality. We got along instantly. This was good, because we immediately found ourselves in a bit of a crisis together.

Apparently the people of Cusco had decided on this day to have a strike against automobiles. The streets were eerily devoid of traffic, replaced instead, by groups of police with crowd control shields, clubs, and guns patrolling mobs of people marching against the automobile industry. From what I gathered, they were unhappy with the rising gas prices connected with a recent strike in Venezuela and the high car taxes imposed by the government. Marcus told me that the people were going to allow tourist vehicles to pass and not to worry, but I was still more than a little frightened when a mob of people surrounded our van as we tried to leave. We locked the doors and drove slowly, and, sure enough, they did allow us through, though we were blocked from any main roads and ended up having to take the long way out of town by means of side roads and alleys.

Marcos announced that we were heading to the Sacred Valley, which was 30 km away from town and an excellent place for both birds and Inca ruins. I told Marcos of my "big six" and solicited his help in finding them. He thought for a moment and said it would not be easy to see condors at that particular time of year because the sea lions were breeding on the coast and most of the condors had gone there, as they do every year, for the month of January to scavenge the ones that died while ashore. He added that he had never seen a condor in the mountains in January. He said that Torrent Ducks frequent the river that runs along the train on the way to Machu Picu, which we planned to visit during the next two days, but that he often does not see them at all. The Cock-of-the-rock, he said, were not currently displaying, so they would also be hard to see. He seemed optimistic, however, about the Giant Hummingbird, Andean Flicker, and Plumbeous Rail.

"In fact," he said with a grin as we bounced along on the mountain road, "Plumbeous Rails are here." Thinking I had misunderstood, I tried to figure out what Marcos, with his thick Peruvian accent, had meant. As I was pondering this, Marcos pulled off the road where, I was surprised to find, there was a lovely marsh. He then pointed out the window and said, "There you go." I followed his finger to a little black speck with red legs and a beautiful multi-colored bill: Plumbeous Rail! I was astonished. We got out of the van and I noticed that there were at least a dozen of the rails dotting the little marsh. Also at the marsh were Speckled Teal, Yellow-winged Blackbirds, and Hooded Ciscans. I got great looks and many pictures, and we got back on the road again.

We stopped at a charming little inn with a picturesque view of open meadows reaching in all directions to the snow-capped peaks that surrounded us. Marcus informed me that the restaurant here was first class. We picked delicious wild cherries while our food was being prepared. While eating cherries, we heard an Andean Flicker calling, but were not rewarded with any looks. Needless to say, my remaining "big six" were not going to be nearly as easy as the first.

After lunch, we went to check out a condor nest on the side of a cliff. As Marcus had said, no condors were to be



seen. I thought back to the Harpy Eagle nest I got to see a week earlier in the rainforest: a rare bird nest without the rare bird. Marcus tells me that almost any other time of the year there would be 20 or more at this location, soaring overhead on their ten-foot wingspans. He recounted the time one of the magnificent birds swooped only ten feet over his head.

No time for disappointment! The Giant Hummingbirds were supposed to be close by, so we headed to a rocky incline where the species of cactus on which the hummers are totally dependant was in bloom. We waited. An Andean Gull flew overhead. We walked along a path, keeping close to the cactus flowers. There were plenty of great birds around and I remember seeing Blue-and-yellow Tanagers and Torrent Tyrannulets foraging by a stream. Then, as I was watching a pair of Band-tailed Seedeaters gather seeds, something barreled by my head. I looked up and came face to face with the biggest hummingbird on the planet. Almost as big as a Purple Martin, it seemed to defy physics as it hovered not three meters in front of my face. It is a dull brown bird and not spectacularly colored like most of its smaller cousins. It wows you, instead, with its truly incredible size. With deliberate wing beats, it labored to keep airborne. After a few seconds, my magical moment with the giant was over, and it went back to its relentless pursuit of the energy-rich nectar it requires to fuel its inner fires. Satisfied with my day's adventure and having seen two of my six target birds, I called it a day. *(To be continued.)*

"On the Road Again" Articles

FOR SOME TIME I HAVE NOT NEEDED ANY "ON THE ROAD AGAIN" articles, as we had several in reserve. The cupboard is bare. We have one or two yet to be published, but the editor likes to make them seasonal, so that means that we don't necessarily use them in the order received. Please send me your OTR stories. Electronic versions are much easier for me to copy and paste, but send them by carrier pigeon if you have one. The addresses are on the back cover.

Planting Day on Dauphin Island

By JOHN PORTER



AFTER NUMEROUS DELAYS AND FALSE STARTS, THE DIBS volunteers charged with replanting post-Ivan Dauphin Island with bird-friendly flora sprang into action on January 29.

Because of restrictions on the expenditure of Town funds on property not owned by the Town, Mayor Jeff Collier and the Town Council had forwarded the previously accepted AOS contributions to DIBS for implementation early this year.

On that first weekend the weather gods rained a vengeance on early attempts to begin planting. "Saint" John Stowers drove from Montgomery and delivered the first of the trees and shrubs from the Shore Acres plant farm and provided lunch for volunteers. The group including Island residents John McCall and Rosie Swart, planted bottlebrush, live oaks and tulip poplar in Salt Creek and Pryor Parks and along the Bienville Boulevard median. LaDon and Roberta Swann, helped by their two sons, Will and Gage, tackled the digging and hauling of rain-soaked mulch while considering sites for the Alabama Coastal Foundation planting effort scheduled for February 19. LaDon and Roberta, who are coordinating the Foundation's planting on the Island, will lead volunteers in planting live oaks in locations complementary to the DIBS efforts.

The second work day came on February 12, when Coastal Birding Association members met to help after their "sparrow stomp" outing. Joining veteran workers John Stowers, John

McCall and Rosie Swart, who always presses her house guests into service, were Betsy Eager, Venetia Friend, Sarah Whitfield, and Ann St. Clair. Workhorses Mike Wilson and Terry Hartley joined Erin Wheeler and Henry Holt preparing beds and planting trees at the new Grant Street property, while others busied themselves planting pyracantha and tulip trees at the water tower. John Porter, who has seen his driveway and garage commandeered as a storage facility, transported tools and materials to the various sites while directing some of the effort. Barbara Byrd, planner and driving force, coordinated the planting project, earning her reputation as a slave driver, exhausting the volunteers in an effort to finish the project before the winter planting season expires.

On the last scheduled work day, February 26, the group will finish setting out trees and shrubs and native grasses while transplanting flowers into the prepared beds. Thanks to the generosity of AOS members our seasonal migrants will be sustained for years to come.

In the wake of Hurricane Ivan, volunteers are replanting parts of Dauphin Island like the Shell Mounds (below) with bird-friendly shrubs and trees.



Canopy Tower, Perry Lakes Park



HELLO AOS BIRDERS!!—We are four Auburn University Architecture students working on our thesis project at Rural Studio in Newbern, Alabama. The Rural Studio, established in 1993 by Professors D. K. Ruth and the late Samuel Mockbee, allows students like us to leave the university environment and live in Hale County. Here we unite with a poverty-stricken region, where we build what we design in efforts to put our educational values to work as citizens of a community. Over the last twelve years many houses and community projects have been built, changing the lives of the faculty, students, families and communities. This year we have been given the opportunity to design and build a birding tower in Perry Lakes Park, in Perry County, Alabama.

We are writing to let your society know about a new birding experience and introduce you to Perry Lakes Park. For those of you who have yet to discover this wonderful place, the Park is one of the most beautiful places in Alabama. Known for its ecological diversity, the Park has numerous tupelo trees, cypress swamps, state champion trees, and at least 170 species of birds that have been spotted in the park. The Cahaba River formed four oxbow lakes over the last 150 years. Our site is on the biggest of the four, Round Lake. Thanks to last year's thesis team there is now a walking bridge allowing access to our proposed site along Ridge Trail, overlooking Round Lake. Over the last few years other students have brought the park a beautiful pavilion, and three of the most amazing outdoor bathrooms ever built.

We propose to build a 100-foot tower that will bring birding up above the canopy. We will have various platforms to observe nature at different levels, from the waterfront to the sky. The Alabama Forestry Commission is in the process of donating an old fire tower that we will dismantle from its current site and reconstruct in Perry Lakes Park. The new tower will be made safer for the public to climb and with the help of lower platforms, will offer a chance to study nature at eye level all the way to 100 feet.

We will begin construction in the next few weeks and want to have you involved in our project. If you have the chance to come and visit us, you can help make this tower the best it can be. This is just another good excuse for a birding adventure in our area! We would love to walk you through the Park and show you our progress as the project develops. To find the park, go to the north edge of the Marion Fish Hatcheries and turn east on the dirt road.

Your suggestions along the way are very important to us!! We really appreciate your time!!!

Please feel free to contact us at buttsnr@auburn.edu or 334-332-3114 to set up a meeting.

—*The Tower Team at Perry Lakes Park: Adrienne Brady, Natalie Butts, Paul Howard, and Coley Mulcahy*

Hoover/Birmingham Birding Trail

By GREG D. JACKSON



NEW BIRDING TRAIL HAS JUST BEEN ESTABLISHED IN north Alabama. This is the Hoover/Birmingham Birding Trail, with sites along a roughly 20-mile swath in or adjacent to the City of Hoover, south of Birmingham. The city stretches along the Cahaba River, a prominent feature of the trail. Sites range from near Helena in the southwest to Lake Purdy in the northeast. I designed the trail and wrote the site guide; the project was conceived and coordinated by Virginia Williams and Sherri Nielson of the Hoover Development Office. An attractive trail map has just been produced, with beautiful artwork of representative species by David Webb.

Though many Birmingham birders will be familiar with some sites, other locales in the trail will be new to most. These include good migrant sites and nice spots for breeding birds, as well as a few water areas. Some provide pleasant walking trails as well as good birds. A few signs may be constructed in the future, and one of the sites needs some touch-up trail clearing, but hopefully by spring it will be ready for use.

As anyone living around Birmingham knows, habitats are altered continuously. I volunteered to help on this project mainly in an attempt to give value to the natural qualities of

these sites, in the hope that at least some could be preserved as a result. While researching the project, I had to rewrite several areas undergoing habitat change; even as the brochure was being printed a nice marsh at Spain Park was destroyed!

I'm alerting birders about the trail for two reasons. One is that I think many people would enjoy birding these areas. More importantly, I believe if interest is shown in the project, true value may be assigned to these natural areas. Though this is a creation of the City of Hoover, I've learned that the Greater Birmingham Convention & Visitors Bureau has shown interest and has had many trail brochures printed. I encourage birders to request one or more brochures, which can be done easily through the Hoover Development Office. Online at www.ci.hoover.al.us/CitySub.asp?PageID=265 you will find a short form that you can submit to request a birding trail map. You may also email development@ci.hoover.al.us, call 205/739-7399, fax a request to 205/444-7723, or write: City of Hoover Development Office, 100 Municipal Drive, Hoover, AL 35216. In the future there may be direct links on Hoover, Birmingham, and other websites. Thanks and enjoy the trail!

Florida Exotic Avifauna

By ROBERT R. REID, JR.



THE AUGUST 2004 ISSUE OF *BIRDING MAGAZINE* contains an interesting article on Florida's Exotic Avifauna by Bill Pranty of the Archbold Biological Station at Venus, Florida, www.archbold-station.net. However, the list in the article covers two pages. Since many AOS members visit Florida and some live there, a shorter list of species, with some notes on selected localities, should be a helpful digest. In addition to the expected Rock Dove (now Rock Pigeon), Eurasian Collared-Dove, European Starling and House Sparrow, the following are now considered established or are breeding in relatively sizeable numbers at certain localities:

Muscovy Duck¹

Purple Swamphen²

Budgerigar (St. Petersburg and Miami areas)

Monk Parakeet (St. Petersburg and Miami areas)

Black-hooded (Nanday) Parakeet (St. Petersburg and Golden Coast)

White-winged Parakeet³

Yellow-chevroned Parakeet

The following are less abundant with between 25 and 100 pairs breeding in the wild:

Rose-ringed Parakeet (North Miami)

Blue-crowned Parakeet (St. Petersburg and Golden Coast)

Mitred Parakeet (near Ft. Lauderdale Airport)

Chestnut-fronted Macaw

Red-crowned Parrot (Golden Coast)

Red-whiskered Bulbul (Kendall, southwest suburb of Miami)

Common Indian Myna (shopping centers and parking lots along East Coast)

Spot-breasted Oriole⁴

House Finch⁵

Yellow-headed Amazon (Golden Coast)

Orange-winged Parrot

Indian Hill Myna⁶ (University of Miami Campus in Coral Gables)

NOTES:—¹Finding the Muscovy as established is a surprise, but it apparently now breeds in the wild all over Florida. The Red Junglefowl is also considered established near Key West and even the Common Peafowl is thought to have some established local populations.

²A close relative of the Purple Gallinule from the Near East and India, some escaped when Hurricane Andrew struck the Miami Zoo, and they took root east and southeast of Lake Okeechobee, particularly near Pembroke Pines.

³Formerly known as the Canary-winged Parakeet before the split into White-winged and Yellow Chevroned, the White-winged is distinguished by the large white triangle on the rear of its wings. It once roosted in large numbers in the Royal Palms lining the drive to the Miami City Hall on Dinner Key.

⁴Much like the Altamira Oriole of South Texas and Mexico, it may have blown over from its native Central America (first noted after a storm in 1948) or escaped from some aviculturists and has become established around Coral Gables and Homestead.

⁵The article regards the House Finch as an exotic since birds in the East have spread from caged birds released on Long Island around 1961 by bird dealers when agents of the Fish & Wildlife Service were in hot pursuit; birds in the West are native populations.

⁶Not included are natural vagrants from the Bahamas, like the Bahama Mockingbird (larger and not as colorful as our Mockingbird), Bahama Swallow (similar to Tree Swallow), Bananaquit (a honeycreeper), and Thick-billed Vireo (much like Yellow-throated Vireo). Many other vagrants are, of course, attracted to a peninsula like Florida.

ALABAMA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

We Did It Again—Another Great Year!

By RICK WEST, *State Coordinator, Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas Project*

Even though we set tough goals, we were able to meet them, even exceeding them in some cases. The table below summarizes our progress in the 628 blocks we set out to cover well. It shows that we have found more than 70 species in more blocks than we expected. We had forecast in 2003 that we would have 40 in that category by project's end, yet we raised 22 more blocks to that level in just the last year. At the bottom end of the scale, we reduced the number of blocks with no significant results by 104 blocks so that we have only 68 blocks left to get started in 2005. That will give us time to improve the overall project results in the final year instead of scurrying around to just get the minimum done.



In the northernmost part of the state, we have achieved a level of coverage comparable to that published by the Tennessee Atlas.

We are not done yet. Our goals remain unchanged.

1. To find as many species as possible in our 628-block sample. (This will never be done—we will just reach a point of diminishing returns.)
2. To find as many species as possible in each Quad (or double Quad in the Coastal Plain.) We are finding 70 to 80 species in most quads. The higher the number of species found per Quad, the better the maps

- will be for the less common species.
3. While accomplishing objective 2, to explore promising habitats to find unusual species.
 4. To find as many species in EACH of the 5000 blocks as we have time and manpower to do. It is important to find and record Neotropical species wherever they occur, for effective conservation of them. We have, so far, received some observations in 3075 of them—over 60%—with two more years to go. This is where anyone can help.

I have another goal for the project:
 Involve everyone in AOS and lots of other people in the Project. Only by going out and trying can you find out how much fun it is, and how you will grow in your birding skills and knowledge of our breeding birds. The project is structured for birders at any level, and I really will badger you to go out and record a few species. So don't be surprised if I contact you. Even better, contact one of the Regional Coordinators, who will provide you with a map for a block near where you live—or contact me.

Please visit our web site, which is part of the AOS web site. The pages were updated in December and will be updated again by the time you see this. It lists all the species

Number of Species found in the 628 Blocks selected as a Statistical Sample

No. of Species	Accomplished				Projected	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
80+	1	2	5	5	12	15
70-79	4	12	27	49	35	40
60-69	17	67	113	182	230	260
50-59	42	109	167	185	240	260
40-49	35	55	75	71	66	53
10-39	68	71	69	56	45	0
<10	461	314	172	68	0	0

found in each of the blocks so far. This is a total of 105,000 reports, but surely you can find more—especially in those 2000 uncovered blocks! I am so persistent in asking for you to join us because the Project will be over in two more years. Gone. Completed. Your chances to share in it will have to wait another 25 or 30 years. You will have missed out.

We Are Not the Bird Police! (Just the Facts, Ma'am)

THE FIELD CARDS HAVE AN ADDED FEATURE THIS YEAR. SOME half dozen bird names are set in ALL CAPS. This is to alert you that a short note on location and habitat is needed. This is not a question of identification. It serves to make your good report even more useful for conservation purposes. The location may be key to selecting an Important Bird Area. The habitat may serve as a guide for habitat preservation and improvement. Both serve as substance for the future species accounts.

If the name on the field card is followed by an exclamation point, this is not quite so friendly. In order for your observation of some uncommon bird to be most useful, we must know how you identified it in order to credibly present it to a reader of the atlas. This should not be much of a burden, because you could easily bird a whole season without encountering any of these species. But if you do, rejoice, and write it up!

Secondhand Birds

TALKING TO LOCAL PEOPLE IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ADD SPECIES to your list, yet some report much more “second-hand” information than others. I asked a couple of our champions at eliciting information to comment on how they do it.

Claire Krusko wrote: Farmers and ranchers are wonderful folks! When I explain I am a volunteer doing a bird survey (owl survey after dark) for my “bird club”, their polite suspicions turn to pride in “their” birds! Being very careful not to lead him, I recently asked a farmer if he had any owls. He proudly replied he has had nesting Barn Owls for 12-14 years. Without my asking, he went on to describe them in

detail, pointed out the “old water box under the unused windmill where they nest every year.” To boot, he said he almost had a heart attack once when one swooped at him, hissing and screaming! He knew I was wonderfully and happily impressed with his owls. Then a tough question: “Could you give me a date from last year?” “Spring or summer,” the common reply. “Can you think of an event to which you might link it?” “Yes! There were babies in the nest the day I planted the soybeans! Mid-May, the 15th, give or take a day.” Mission accomplished, a new farmer friend, a firm handshake and I’m on my way.

Don Ware wrote: I have increased both species count and confirmation percentages by speaking with many residents while atlasing. This has been an effective way to increase my record of night birds. I play a tape to help them identify the “hoot owls.” Farmers and those who hunt may even know nest locations. Most know the difference between a “bull bat,” and a “whip-poor-will” even though we call them Common Nighthawk and Chuck-wills-widow. Those who live in ranges overlapping the true Whip-poor-will may have to use tapes to pin down the species. Hunters can provide useful information on game birds, rookeries, and ground-nesting birds, and people with bird feeders can help with yard nesters. So when you are standing on the dirt roads listening for bird song, stop the curious people who slow down in their pickups and tell them what you are doing. Most are very friendly and fun to talk with.

I might add a few keys to success. Convince yourself that these people are nice, approachable and willing to please. Look for clues like martin or bluebird houses, or nice gardens. Stay on topic, gently, to elicit reliable information. The date you enter on the field card is the date of THEIR sighting, not of your conversation. Date it within a week or even month, but if you can’t get some sort of date, maybe the information is not reliable. You absolutely must indicate your source on your field card—“farmer,” “hunter,” or “landowner” will do if that is all the information you have. I think asking names of a stranger is too bold, but please remember their name if they do give it. Trust them if they seem reliable, and discard the information if you remain unconvinced. In short, when you are asked “can I help you?” the response is “Yes, if you have a minute. I’m doing a wildlife survey, and I’m having trouble finding owls [or turkeys or buzzard nests or martin houses].”

Maps

FOUR MAPS ARE SHOWN. THE FORMAT IS SOMEWHAT LIKE THAT proposed for publication. The dots represent actual observations—placed in the centers of 10-square-mile blocks. The shading covers the entire quad wherever the species was reported (double quad in the south).

This is what I see when I look at them.

BARN OWL: I see mostly reports where the most intense Atlasing has been done. We need to get past this phase, so that the map suggests the actual distribution. Even so, we have enough reports to assure ourselves that this species is widespread in the state. The Barn Owl map shows which observations confirmed the species was breeding, and which were only suggestive of breeding by using different symbols. The other maps do not present that detail.

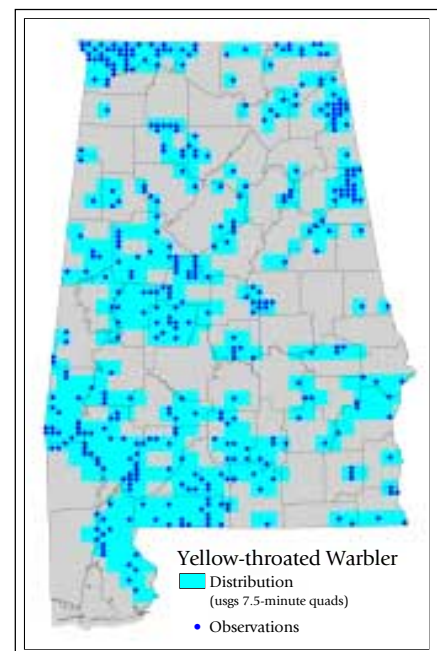
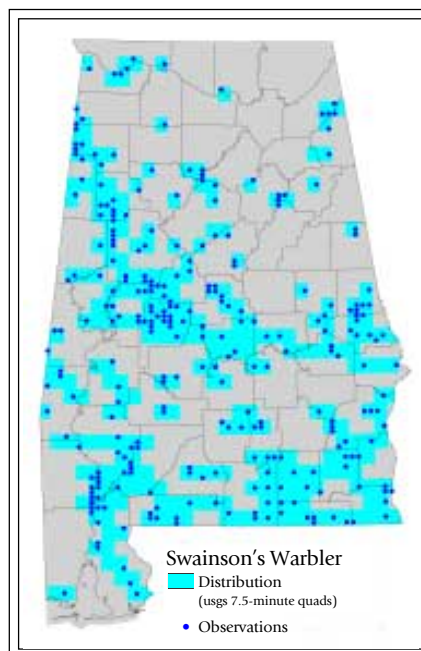
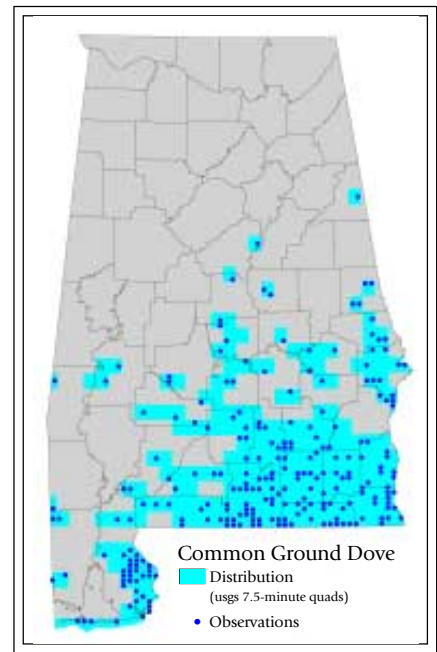
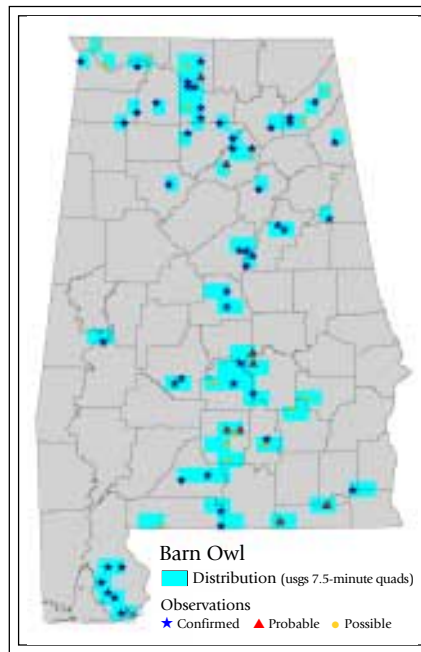
COMMON GROUND-DOVE: This map shows the principal distribution is in the southeastern part of the state. It shows holes that cry out for added field trips to see if the doves can be found in them, too. Some added locations can probably be found farther north that will expand and solidify the breeding distribution where it now appears ragged.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: This species shows almost statewide distribution. Yet it requires damp ground for the vegetation it needs for nesting foraging. So it is largely absent from the well-drained slope in the northeastern part of the state. Added observations are needed to solidify the distribution pattern in parts of the state.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: This species appears to have a fairly broad

niche. It is found, at first glance, all over the state. Yet a few counties have yielded no reports. Why? We need to look again for this somewhat scarce species in the places where it has not yet been reported.

CONCLUSION: These maps present a challenge to go out and Atlas some more.



Is it an "O" or an "X"?

I'M OFTEN ASKED, "IS IT AN O [FORAGING VISITOR] OR AN X [possible local breeder]?"

An atlas is a book of maps. A breeding bird atlas contains maps of where various species breed. Most atlasers have now gotten the word that a soaring vulture or a heron at a pond is not necessarily on its breeding ground and may be miles away from its nest. These atlasers look for other clues, such as an established vulture roost, the subtle daytime descent of a lone vulture into isolated woods, or herons going back and forth to an isolated patch of trees over water. So far, so good.

I'm not sure these atlasers are as good at indicating to me that they were careful. A few words suffice to say what clue they observed, and I enter the clue in the database. Without this supporting note, I can't tell how much care was taken to relate observed birds to possible nest locations.

We judge that the following species usually forage close to their breeding sites, and an "X" may be used to record this observation if they appear to be in or near suitable breeding habitat:

Anhinga	Most hawks
Least Bittern	Chimney Swift
Green Heron	Swallows
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	Shorebirds

The following species should be recorded with an "O" unless you have a specific clue to a specific site where they may have a nest. A note, which may be as brief as a single word, is required to support an "X" code.

Other herons, egrets and ibis
Vultures
Osprey and Bald Eagle
Swallow-tailed Kite
Gulls and terns

The regional coordinators will be checking your data to see if the X's for the species immediately above are supported by a note, and may email you to ask. They will also be checking past records back to 2002. Please be patient with them, and with me. We are all volunteers.

Wanted—Confirmations of Rarities

ONE OF THE CHALLENGES OF THE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS IS TO confirm at least once during the Atlas 5-year period every species we think breeds in the state. The big news this year is that Dwight Cooley observed a Willow Flycatcher carrying food to young. He had observed them on the Wheeler NWR earlier in the year. This is the first breeding report for this species in Alabama.

Our wanted list has shrunk to only one very likely species—so far we have no confirmation of breeding Marsh Wrens, but I am sure such a record will eventually materialize. After that, the list of needed confirmations becomes really tough. We have summer reports during the Atlas or earlier, but no Atlas breeding reports, for the following species:

White-faced Ibis	Black-billed Cuckoo
Wood Stork	Gray Kingbird
Northern Harrier	Bell's Vireo
Peregrine Falcon	Bank Swallow
Ruffed Grouse	Bewick's Wren
Spotted Sandpiper	Veery
Herring Gull	Yellow Warbler
Forster's Tern	Shiny Cowbird

Northern waterfowl sometime summer in Alabama, and may occasionally breed.

So if any of you feel very lucky, please be on the alert for breeding evidence for any of these species. Actually, even finding them in the summer is very unusual.

Important Dates

THIRD FRIDAY—April 15-17, 2005

Spring Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

SECOND SATURDAY—May 14, 2005

North American Migration Count

SECOND FRIDAY—October 14-16, 2005*

Fall Meeting, Dauphin Island, Alabama

SECOND FRIDAY—January 24-26, 2006

Winter Meeting (TBA)

*Winter 2004 *Yellowhammer* had incorrect dates.

GUNTERSVILLE, ALABAMA, JANUARY 28-30, 2005

Winter Meeting Report

By GREGORY J. HARBER



AS I WRITE THIS REPORT IT IS ANOTHER DREARY, RAINY night in Alabama, like so many other nights this winter. The primary difference between tonight and January 28, however, is that it is 30 degrees warmer now, thankfully. Driving from Birmingham to Guntersville that cold afternoon I didn't delay since the weather forecast called for freezing precipitation, which did not bode well for the next day's field trip plans. And, since this meeting was a joint endeavor with the Georgia Ornithological Society, I had hoped that everything would be just perfect for our guests. As it turned out, it nearly was.

The Friday night gathering featured the usual fare offered by the member's favorite slides format: wonderful slides and tales of birding trips to destinations near and far. I especially enjoyed Cecil Kersting's slides of birds seen on his recent trip to Antarctica. What a fabulous place! At the conclusion of the evening Stan Hamilton, our field trips leader, advised us that the temperatures were hovering just below freezing and a light rain had settled in over the city. "Stay tuned and we'll see what tomorrow shall bring."

The next morning dawned cold and rainy but the roads were passable, so after a slight delay, the field trips departed as scheduled. Linda Reynolds, who along with her husband Dick so thoroughly handled our meeting arrangements, led a group to Town Creek and Lake Guntersville State Park. Steve McConnell and I led two separate groups along the Guntersville waterfront, while Stan escorted many of the Georgia birders to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge where they met refuge manager Dwight Cooley. As an added bonus, Stan's group made a last minute dash, a successful one at that, to see the Western Grebe over near Wheeler Dam.

Saturday morning's raw conditions made for some very brief forays from our cars as we toiled along the waterfront, hoping for a glimpse of the Red-throated and Pacific Loons that had been reported on Friday. All for naught, though. Eventually Steve opted to head north while I headed south

to the site of the former Big Spring Minnow Farm, in search of sparrows hearty enough to brave the cold winds. No White-crowned Sparrows as I had hoped but we did have a brief look at a Lincoln's Sparrow in the hedgerow. The loons were as elusive as ever as we drove past the waterfront again, on our way to Clarence's Rib Shack for lunch.

Fortified by the hot luncheon fare and encouraged by the diminishing rainfall, we motored on over to the US 431 bridge landing to join the others headed to the Hawk Farm for an afternoon outing led by Dick and Linda. While the bird variety and numbers were uncharacteristically low for this location, the group was treated to the sight of Bald Eagles tending to eaglets in a nest they had built near the dam. Upon learning that a number of people had not yet seen the loons, Linda and Dick led the whole caravan over to the AL 69 causeway, from which the loons had been seen earlier in the day. The Pacific Loon was located far offshore from the boat launch but in the cold winds it was a less than satisfactory view. The Red-throated was far off too, but at least it was readily distinguishable from the many Common Loons. Tomorrow might be a better day—the eternal mantra for birders everywhere.

The dinner program featured Pat and Jack Casselberry, volunteers with the Operation Migration Whooping Crane project. Theirs was a most informative, and even entertaining (dancing, anyone?!), program addressing the efforts to restore a migratory population of Whooping Cranes to the eastern United States. As many of you know, the cranes are taught to follow ultralight aircraft as they learn their migratory route from Wisconsin to Florida, where the Casselberrys live. The success the project has enjoyed thus far is a testament to the results that can be accomplished when people of goodwill and a dedicated spirit work together. Adding a special dimension to the program was the knowledge that three of these endangered cranes from previous classes had stayed briefly in the vicinity of Wheeler NWR back in December. Regrettably one was later (*continued on page 15*)

*Winter 2005 AOS Compilation List
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and
Guntersville, AL, January 28-30, 2004*

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS WERE THE PACIFIC AND RED-THROATED Loons, Western Grebe, Cackling Goose and Iceland Gull. This list follows the new AOU taxonomic order.

Greater White-fronted Goose	Black Vulture
Snow Goose	Turkey Vulture
Canada Goose	Bald Eagle
<i>Cackling Goose</i>	Northern Harrier
Wood Duck	Sharp-shinned Hawk
Gadwall	Cooper's Hawk
American Wigeon	Red-shouldered Hawk
American Black Duck	Red-tailed Hawk
Mallard	American Kestrel
Northern Shoveler	Peregrine Falcon
Northern Pintail	American Coot
Green-winged Teal	Sandhill Crane
Canvasback	Killdeer
Redhead	Wilson's Snipe
Ring-necked Duck	American Woodcock
Greater Scaup	Bonaparte's Gull
Lesser Scaup	Ring-billed Gull
Bufflehead	Herring Gull
Common Goldeneye	Iceland Gull
Hooded Merganser	Forster's Tern
Red-breasted Merganser	Rock Pigeon
Ruddy Duck	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Wild Turkey	Mourning Dove
<i>Red-throated Loon</i>	Eastern Screech-Owl
<i>Pacific Loon</i>	Great Horned Owl
Common Loon	Barred Owl
Pied-billed Grebe	Short-eared Owl
Horned Grebe	Belted Kingfisher
Western Grebe	Red-headed Woodpecker
American White Pelican	Red-bellied Woodpecker
Double-crested Cormorant	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Great Blue Heron	Downy Woodpecker
Great Egret	Hairy Woodpecker
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Flicker
	Pileated Woodpecker

Eastern Phoebe	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Loggerhead Shrike	Pine Warbler
Blue Jay	Palm Warbler
American Crow	Eastern Towhee
Horned Lark	Chipping Sparrow
Carolina Chickadee	Field Sparrow
Tufted Titmouse	Savannah Sparrow
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Song Sparrow
White-breasted Nuthatch	Lincoln's Sparrow
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Swamp Sparrow
Brown Creeper	White-throated Sparrow
Carolina Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
House Wren	Lapland Longspur
Winter Wren	Northern Cardinal
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-winged Blackbird
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Bluebird	Rusty Blackbird
Hermit Thrush	Brewer's Blackbird
American Robin	Common Grackle
Northern Mockingbird	Purple Finch
Brown Thrasher	House Finch
European Starling	Pine Siskin
American Pipit	American Goldfinch
Cedar Waxwing	House Sparrow

All reported sightings will be accepted and published in *The Yellowhammer*. However, the meeting compilation list in *The Yellowhammer* is not an official record. Species that are **bold-faced**, or listed in the Hypothetical section of the AOS Field Card must be supported by complete written details and submitted to, and accepted by, the Records Committee to become an official AOS record. *Italicized species* usually need written details but these may be brief. Out of season and locally rare birds should also be documented. Refer to the front page of the AOS Field Card for additional details.

Attention Listers! Final Call for 2005

THE YELLOWHAMMER WILL REPORT IN THE SUMMER ISSUE ANY list of interest, whether it is ABA Life, World, Alabama or other state(s), county, yard, year, or anything else you wish to submit. The deadline is June 10, 2005. Each of you probably has at least one list of some sort; share it with the rest of us.

WINTER MEETING REPORT *(continued from page 15)*

found dead but the other two successfully migrated to Florida. The cause of death remains uncertain at this time, to my knowledge.

Early Sunday, Stan led an intrepid bunch out the park to meet Linda again. This time owls were the subject of their quest. Barred and Great Horned Owls obliged these dedicated souls, and an Eastern Screech Owl was obliging enough for some of the Georgia birders staying in the park. I on the other hand had my heart set on those dang loons, still! So over to the causeway I went.

This morning the birding gods smiled on us and took mercy. The Pacific and Red-throated Loons were within easy viewing distance at the midpoint in the causeway. The Red-throated was so close one did not even need optics of any sort to see the snake-like curvature of the bird's profile as Jeff Wilson pointed it out to us. And the Pacific? Why its tidy little chinstrap was as plain as day. The small coterie of birders gathered on the causeway had now grown large enough to catch the attention of the locals. As I was leaving Guntersville, the clerk at the convenience store asked what the reason for all the commotion was. "Loons!" I said. She had no way of knowing or appreciating what splendid views we had all enjoyed.

As I said, I was in the process of leaving, but not for Birmingham. I and several other Birmingham birders decided to forego attending the compilation in favor of striking out for the Western Grebe—a life bird for several of us, including me. While we were successful in finding this bird too, we did have occasion for one regret. It is a lesson I shall not soon forget: Never ignore the sight of Jeff Wilson's vehicle pulled well off on the shoulder of the road and headed nose first into the fence, with a large flock of gulls wheeling in the distance. As I would later learn, Jeff had found an Iceland Gull! Steve McConnell had placed a call over to the crowd at the compilation, but alas, we were unaware of the presence of this rarity as we sped west. A lesson in life to savor the moment and to treasure what you have.

The final species tally for the weekend was a respectable 117. Most importantly though, we enjoyed spending time with the GOS, sharing some wonderful birds and forging new friendships. As Bob Sargent, the GOS president said, it is now time for us to go visit them. I look forward to that day.

AOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Raises Dues and Fees



THE ALABAMA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF Directors, in its Friday, January 28, 2005, meeting, voted to increase dues and registration fees.

AOS has not raised dues in six years, and at that time it was acknowledged that the increase was not enough to sustain the society for long. The issue of raising dues, registration fees or both has arisen at most board meetings for the past three or four years, but everyone was reluctant to do it. However, the need has become so acute that delay was no longer an option. The board reviewed a comparison chart of our fees and those of several similar organizations in neighboring states, and we saw that AOS dues were in all categories but one lower than every other organization.

The board based this difficult decision on two factors: First, our meetings should be self-sustaining. We are enjoying outstanding speakers, but their travel costs, lodging costs (for the winter meeting), honoraria, and related costs have risen sharply. We also recognized that our organization could not survive if we do not have adequate funding. Based on the costs of meetings in recent years and known costs for upcoming meetings, we voted to increase registration to \$15 per meeting, effective immediately.

Second, the financial reports for several years have been showing declining balances. Inflation has so increased the cost of printing and mailing our publications that we are losing money. We no longer have any money to use toward conservation issues, as stated in our purpose.

The board approved increasing dues for 2006 as follows:

Student	\$10
Individual	\$20
Family	\$30
Patron	\$40
Life – Individual	\$300
Life – Family	\$500

Dues for 2005 will not be affected.

The board also discussed the growing problem of those members who register late for the meetings, which negatively affects our ability to plan for meetings, and is a burden to the treasurer. The board voted to add a \$5.00 late fee to any registration not *postmarked* by the cut-off date. This will be collected at the door if not included with the participant's registration. The board encourages all members to register on time, as this is a great hardship on the treasurer.

Shirley and Frank Farrell reported that the Education Committee is hard at work on educational materials for teachers who join AOS. Shirley is also developing a bird "Survival" game to be used with elementary students. *She requests digital photographs from interested members to use.*

Rick West reported that the Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas is on track. He still needs help from the membership in collecting data. The board urges all members to participate in the BBA project and again, thanks Rick and his team for their hard work.

Greg Harber proposed the AOS board mount a fund-raising campaign in conjunction with the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries. There are matching funds available and the success of this campaign will enable DIBS to purchase property in the Steiner Block (the Ani Lot) across from the Goat Tree Reserve on Dauphin Island. The board approved the motion that we send a letter to our membership asking for contribution for this project in recognition of the importance of Dauphin Island to AOS.

The board also discussed the need to upgrade and improve the technology we make available to our members and speakers for their presentations at our meetings. More requests are coming in for Power Point capabilities, which we do not have. Further study was advised, but it is apparent that we will need to purchase a digital projector, as we can't continue to borrow one.

Electronic Yellowhammer?

IT COSTS WELL OVER A DOLLAR AND A HALF TO PRINT AND MAIL *THE Yellowhammer*. We deliver, on a totally voluntary basis, *The Yellowhammer* via the internet. If you would like to receive your *Yellowhammer* via the internet, as a pdf file, please email the editor at robert.reed@psc.alabama.gov.

JULY 1, 2004—DECEMBER 31, 2004

AOS Financial Report

STARTING BALANCE July 1, 2004 \$8795.00

INCOME

Deposits	\$4544.00
AOS Dues	1874.00
CBA Dues	95.00
Registrations	234.00
DIBS	45.00
Hurricane Ivan Contributions	2296.00
Interest Deposits	3.77
Field Cards	3.00
Petty Cash on hand	25.00
TOTAL	\$4575.77

EXPENSES

CBA disbursement	\$325.00
DIBS disbursement	914.00
Town of DI Hurricane Ivan donation	2000.00
DI Chamber of Commerce	
Membership (04-05)	100.00
Printers & Stationers	793.00
Herald Printing (<i>Alabama Birdlife</i>)	161.01
Fall Meeting refunds	234.00
Photographics Inc.	
(<i>Yellowhammer</i> Printing)	1512.00
Winter Meeting '05	
Hampton Inn deposit	300.00
High Speed Solutions (website)	112.50
Spring Meeting '05	
Meals and transportation for speaker	75.05
Postage	240.00
Speaker gifts	65.78
Returned Check Fees	9.00
TOTAL	\$6847.34

ENDING BALANCE December 31, 2004 \$6447.92

AOS SPRING MEETING 2005

Meet the Speaker: "Roger and Me"

By PETER DUNNE



R. DUNNE?" A NOW FAMILIAR VOICE WOULD intone into the phone. "Dr. Peterson wishes to speak with you."

These opening words would be followed by a period of silence while Roger Tory Peterson's private secretary informed her celebrated employer that the requested connection had been made. Time enough for me to ponder the curious and wonderful turn of events that had brought me to the role of one of Roger's "adopted sons."

Before 1983, my connection to the most famous birder of the 20th century was vicarious. He was both author and, I believe, organizer of a series of pamphlets published by the National Audubon Society for the organization's Junior Audubon Society (of which I was, by dint of my purchase of those leaflets, a member). He was also the man who crafted the first, truly utilitarian Field Guide to the Birds—a book that, I confess, I did not own (but borrowed, regularly, from the municipal library). I'd memorized his essay on bird identification housed in the National Geographic Society's book *Song and Garden Birds of North America* and, of course, I'd read *Wild America*—Roger's and James Fisher's account of their travels around North America in search of birds, the same book that inspired Kenn Kaufman's peregrinations recounted in his book *The Kingbird Highway* and, very probably, my own travels around North America recounted in *The Feather Quest*.

But my first actual contact with Roger came about as a result of the World Series of Birding—the now well-known 24-hour birding competition, held in New Jersey in May, that raises more than half a million dollars annually for bird conservation. In 1983, the World Series was just a pipe dream pitched to a spanking new Director of the New Jersey Audubon Society (and my boss) Tom Gilmore.

Tom was (generously speaking) skeptical. But he didn't want to discourage initiative so he gave the idea conditional support—one of those conditions was that Roger Tory Peterson give the event his sanctifying nod.

I started to write a letter to Roger, stating my case for a national birding competition but concluded that what was needed here was boldness, a frontal approach. I got Roger's telephone number from a source who swore me to secrecy. Called his office in Old Lyme, Connecticut, with a lump in my throat and honey on my tongue. Died and was resurrected six or nine times between the time the connection was made and the phone stopped ringing in mid-ring.

"Hello," a somewhat guarded voice pronounced.

"I'm Peter Dunne of the New Jersey Audubon's Cape May Bird Observatory and I would like to speak to Roger Tory Peterson if he is available, please."

"Just one moment please," the voice returned. There followed a lengthy interlude during which time I hyperventilated into a paper bag and promised my soul to whatever spirits were attuned to the aspirations of Bird Observatory Directors for just 30 seconds to state my...."

"Hello," a voice intoned.

It was the first time I'd heard the voice of Roger and on that occasion, and all subsequent occasions, I was disarmed by the gentleness and earnest overtones that characterized his speech.

To make a long story short, I stated my case and invited Roger's council regarding the proposed birding competition. Would he favor it? I needn't have worried.

"Whose team can I be on?" said the man whose name was virtually synonymous with bird watching. "Can I be on yours? We should start in Troy Meadows before dawn, don't you think? Then head for the hills above Boonton to be there at sunrise for...."

"This," I have said before and will, in my dotage, be recounting to all unfortunate enough to lie within hearing, "is a little bit like calling the Vatican and having the Pope ask whether he can go to church with you on Sunday."

Incidentally it should not surprise you (and it did not surprise me) that Roger was both familiar enough with New Jersey and Big Day strategy to start laying out a prospective

route even before being confirmed as a member of our team (which included Pete Bacinski, Bill Boyle, David Sibley, and me). Roger was a Big Day Birding veteran who had more than once teamed up with Charles Urner, Ludlow Griscom and others in the New Jersey area (an historic hotbed for this brand of birding madness).

The day before the event (and following many, many conversations with Roger's third wife Ginny) I met the Petersons on the concrete platform of the old Amtrak railroad station in Newark, New Jersey. Twelve hours later we were standing on a bridge mantling the Black River near Chester, New Jersey listening for rails.

We won that first World Series—the first Big Day Team to record more than 200 species of birds in 24 hours in the state of New Jersey (making New Jersey only the third state where the “200 barrier” had been broken). On the wall of my office, just behind me (as a matter of fact) is a plaque commemorating the achievement. My other token of the day is the team t-shirt worn by Roger—a brown shirt emblazoned with a cartoon figure of a ski mask hooded crow carrying binoculars (and brandishing an automatic weapon) and the legend: “Guerrilla Birding Team” and the team motto “Hit and Run.” Ginny sent it to me several years after Roger's death in 1996.

I think it's fair to say that the World Series cemented the friendship between Roger and me. We shared the podium at Hawk Mountain's 50th Anniversary as co-keynote speakers in 1986; we sought out each other's company at American Birding Association Conventions. We did one more Big Day together, in 1993, to celebrate the 10th World Series of Birding.

Roger's last Big Day

But most of our communications were forged in letter form (this was an age before email). I loved the opportunity to share with him events in Cape May and the projects the Cape May Bird Observatory was involved with. He, for his part, thrived on information relating to the great, multifaceted society (called the Birding World) that he, in no small part, had crafted.

In time, I found myself in the role of advisor and confidant. The phone would ring here at CMBO. A voice would intone. “Dr. Peterson would like to have a word with you” and then I'd be patched in to Roger's studio to exchange pleasantries with the great man, then learn the nature of his call.

Sometimes it related to a promotion offer. Offered by an optics company. And was it wise for him to appear to favor one brand or another? Sometimes it related to an issue affecting birds, birding or the birding community and did I have an opinion; and how did I think he should address the matter or proceed.

This was not, in any way, a singular role of mine. Roger had other “adopted sons” and other sound confidants whose advice he trusted. But I will be cold in my grave before the warmth of that trust and his friendship diminishes in my memory.

And even now, when the phone rings, I sometimes get an anticipatory flutter in my tummy; a vestigial eagerness. Even though, in my mind, I realize that his death has fallen between us; even though it has been many years since I have picked up a phone and heard a voice intone: “Dr. Peterson wishes to speak with you.”

Fort Morgan News

DR. PERSIJS KOLBERG, THE DIRECTOR AT FORT MORGAN, TOLD Bob Sargent the following information:

The ferry apparently will not be up and running during April. This will affect both birding and banding access to the Fort. Make your plans accordingly.

The admission booth will be out front as you enter the Fort property from Fort Morgan Road. Bob did not have the admission cost schedule, but be prepared to pay at the booth unless you hear otherwise.

Bob and Martha's spring banding session will begin, predawn, on April 2, and will end on the morning of April 15. On April 15, there will be a Civil War Reenactment at the Fort. This is to be a major deal with lots of additional cannon fire, foot soldiers and several thousand guests. Birding will not be very productive the weekend of AOS.

Deadlines for Yellowhammer Submissions

Summer 2005	June 10, 2005
Fall 2005	August 5, 2005
Winter 2005	November 13, 2005

AOS SPRING MEETING 2005

Dauphin Island, Alabama, April 15-17, 2005

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

- 3:00 p.m. Sea Lab Registration at the Chamber Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Check-in begins at the Chamber Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Pot Luck snack and open bar
(Bring your favorite snack or dessert)
- 7:00 p.m. Member slide show
- 8:30 p.m. Board meeting—Chamber Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

- 6:00 a.m. Complimentary Danish and coffee at the Sea Lab
- 7:00 a.m. Field trips—Meet at Sea Lab parking lot
- 6:00 p.m. Open bar social
- 6:45 p.m. Seafood banquet
- 8:00 p.m. Program—Peter Dunne

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

- 6:00 a.m. Complimentary Danish and coffee at the Sea Lab
- 7:00 a.m. Field trips—Meet at Sea Lab parking lot
- 12:00 p.m. Compilation—Shell Mounds

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INFORMATION

Sea Lab—Double occupancy rooms with bath on hall available for 42. (First come, first served.) Bring your own linens, blankets, and towels. Available at 5 p.m. Friday, April 16. See registration form.

Motels—Gulf Breeze and Harbor Lights Motel: (800) 286-0296 and Bayside Motel & Apts.: (251) 861-4994

Rentals—Boardwalk Realty, Inc: (877) 861-3992; Dauphin Island Real Estate: (888) 707-6444; Tyson Real Estate: (251) 861-8312; Pickett Real Estate: (800) 861-3646; Island Realty Corp.: (877) 219-7392; Angel Realty: (888) 473-5534

Websites—www.gulfinfo.com and www.dauphinisland.cc

FRIDAY NIGHT POT LUCK

Don't forget to bring your favorite appetizer, snack, dessert, etc. for the social hour before the Members Slide Show at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night.

AOS SPRING MEETING 2005 REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and return to:

Shelly Ducharme, Treasurer, 1026 DeKalb Street, Auburn, AL 36830
e-mail: shelly_ducharme@charter.net

Please make checks payable to AOS and remit by April 2, 2005. After April 2, registration fee is \$20.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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SEA LAB
(See Box Opposite)

- Friday Night
How Many _____ Amount \$ _____
- Saturday Night
How Many _____ Amount \$ _____

Registration @ \$15 per person	\$
Banquet @ \$19 per person	\$
Sea Lab @ \$15 per person per night	\$
AOS 2005 Dues	\$
DIBS Land Purchase Fund Contribution	\$
Coastal Birding Association 2005 Dues (\$5)	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

THE YELLOWHAMMER

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